

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 120120Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5561

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 9045

FOLLOWING REPEATS SURABAYA 0386 SENT ACTION JAKARTA

INFO MEDAN DATED JULY 7, 1976

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SURABAYA 0386

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID, FR

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE'S COMMENTS ON GOI
POLICY TOWARD FRANCE

EMBASSY REQUESTED TO RETRANSMIT TO SECSTATE AND AMEMBASSY PARIS

1. CALLED THIS MORNING ON FORMER GOVERNOR OF EAST JAVA MOHAMMAD NOER, INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO FRANCE, TO SAY GOODBYE BEFORE MY OWN DEPARTURE FROM SURABAYA. NOER TOOK OCCASION TO DISCUSS GOI HOPES FOR EXPANDED FRENCH RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA.

2. NOER SAID PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAD APPOINTED HIM TO PARIS OVER OBJECTIONS OF DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, BECAUSE HE HAD SPECIFIC ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL, AS WELL AS MILITARY, MISSIONS TO CARRY OUT. ON MAY 5, PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED TO HIM THAT HE WANTED TO EXPAND FRENCH ECONOMIC INVESTMENT AND TRADE WITH INDONESIA, AND TO PROMOTE A FRENCH ROLE AS ANOTHER "BALANCING POWER" IN THE REGION. PRESIDENT ALSO THOUGHT FRENCH
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INFLUENCE MIGHT BE USEFUL IN DEVELOPING VIABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH

NEW INDOCHINA STATES, AMONG WHICH VIETNAM WAS PARTICULARLY WORRISOME.

3. SPECIFICALLY, SUHARTO DIRECTED NOER TO "GET PRESIDENT GISCARD TO JAKARTA FOR STATE VISIT," AND TO "GET FRENCH WEAPONS AND OTHER MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR INDONESIA." IT WAS MILITARY ASSISTANCE ASPECT OF HIS INSTRUCTIONS WHICH HAD CAUSED INDONESIAN DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT TO BRIDLE AT HIS APPOINTMENT, BUT SUHARTO, BACKED BY FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK, STOOD FAST AND INSISTED ON NOER.

4. NOER EXPECTS TO LEAVE FOR PARIS IN LATE AUGUST AFTER PRESENT AMBASSADOR COMPLETES HIS TERM. HE WILL TRAVEL VIA HAWAII, LOS ANGELES, AND NEW YORK (TO SEE HIS BROTHER, WHO IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN AND PROMINENT NEW YORK BUSINESSMAN). NOER SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY NOT STOP IN WASHINGTON, SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK DOES NOT WISH TO HAVE A WASHINGTON STOP INTERPRETED BY PARIS AS A SIGN OF AMERICAN INFLUENCE ON GOI POLICY TOWARD FRANCE. HOWLAND UNQUOTE
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